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Letter dated 11 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the communiqué of the first session of the International Contact Group on Guinea, held on 16 and 17 February 2009 in Conakry (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel **Kafando**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 11 March 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

First session of the International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G)

Conakry, 17 February 2009

Final communiqué

1. The International Contact Group on Guinea (ICG-G), established at the consultative meeting on the situation in Guinea held in Addis Ababa on 30 January 2009, held its first session in Conakry on 16 and 17 February 2009. In addition to the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the following organizations attended the meeting: the United Nations, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the European Union, the Mano River Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Community of Sahelo-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and the World Bank. Other participants included Angola, as President of the African Union Peace and Security Council and Nigeria, as Chairman of ECOWAS; African members (Burkina Faso and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America); and Spain. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and Dr. Mohammed Ibn Chambas, President of the ECOWAS Commission. The meeting adopted its agenda.

2. The Group expressed its gratitude to the authorities and people of Guinea for their hospitality and assistance.

3. The opening ceremony was presided over by the Prime Minister and Head of Government of Guinea, Mr. Kabine Komara. He highlighted the progress made by the Government and expressed the hope that the meeting would allow the Group to assess the situation in Guinea and to make the appropriate recommendations for the successful conduct of the transition.

4. Dr. Chambas, Mr. Fall, Ambassador Harro Adt, Special Representative of the European Union Presidency and Mr. Said Djinnit, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa, informed the Group of the situation in Guinea. Following an exchange of views on the recent political developments there, the Group emphasized the importance of rapidly establishing a detailed road map for a return to democracy and constitutional order in Guinea.

5. The Group was invited to attend a meeting chaired by the President of the Conseil national pour la démocratie et le développement (CNDD) that brought together all stakeholders: CNDD, the Government, political parties, civil society, unions, religious leaders and youth and women's associations.

6. The Group took note of the announcement made by the Head of State and the Chairman of CNDD regarding the establishment of a transition period comprised of the following stages:

Provisional timetable for a return to constitutional order:

Stage 1: Establishment of a transition framework and institutions

- Resumption of voter registration;
- Establishment of a National Transition Council (CNT);
- Launching of national dialogue days;
- Lifting of the suspension of political party and union activity;
- Reduction in roadblocks;
- Establishment of a national body to ensure implementation of the road map in coordination with ICG-G

Stage 2: Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission

- Continued investigation of the events of 2006 and 2007.

Stage 3: Constitutional reforms

- Adoption of the constitution and framework laws.

Stage 4: Publication of the laws on the electoral process

- Publication of the electoral roll;
- Organization of elections.

7. In addition, the President of CNDD reiterated his undertaking that the Prime Minister, members of CNDD and the Government would not run in the next elections.

8. The Group took note of the announcement made by the Chairman of CNDD concerning his group's commitments and the restoration of the rights and freedoms of unions and political parties.

9. The Group expressed the hope that the dialogue between CNDD and stakeholders would rapidly yield results, so that the commitments of the Chairman of CNDD might be formalized and so that a clear timetable might be established with a view to holding elections by the end of 2009.

10. The Group initiated bilateral consultations with the country's active civil population and took note of the improved security situation. After noting the improved security situation, the Group expressed concern about the arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial detentions, as well as the increasingly high number of roadblocks, which hindered the free movement of persons and goods.

11. The Group expressed its firm conviction that completion of the transition through the holding of inclusive, free, fair and transparent and credible elections in 2009, as called for by the stakeholders and supported by the international community, would bolster political stability and consolidate democracy, which was

a decisive factor in economic and social development. Against that background, the Group once again stressed the importance of conducting joint assessment missions in Guinea to evaluate and gather information on the overall development of the situation, the progress achieved towards a return to constitutional order, and the resolution of any problems encountered.

12. The Group noted with satisfaction the beginning of a comprehensive political dialogue involving all stakeholders and CNDD, and urged CNDD and the Government to contribute to the establishment of the rule of law and respect for human rights, in a spirit of neutrality.

13. Regarding the role of the Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante (CENI) and of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Political Affairs (MATAP) in the organization of elections in 2009, the Group called for a clear and detailed funding request to be made in a timely manner. It also called on the international community to provide the financial and material resources necessary to hold credible and transparent legislative and presidential elections. In that connection, the Group once again underlined the importance of establishing a consultative mechanism on support to the electoral process and the contribution of human, technical and financial resources by multilateral and bilateral partners.

14. The Group stressed the importance of establishing an appropriate legal framework for the electoral process.

15. The Group insisted that CNDD must focus primarily on the transition process, while keeping the country on the path of economic, financial and democratic governance reforms necessary to achieve stability.

16. The Group shared the concerns of CNDD and urged the Guinean authorities to work closely with ECOWAS, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) regional office and other partners in their continuing efforts to combat drug and human trafficking and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

17. In addition, the Group decided to meet again in Conakry before the end of March 2009 to assess the situation and coordinate their efforts, and to establish a local contact group comprising the members of ICG-G with a view to closely monitoring the evolution of the situation in the country.